

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2015
HEARING RM. 2, 2ND FLOOR at 7:30 pm
MARSHFIELD TOWN HALL
MARSHFIELD, MA

A meeting of the Marshfield Open Space Committee (“the Committee”) was called to order at 7:41 pm. Chairperson Karen O’Donnell (KO), members Vicki McPherson (VM), Bob Shaughnessy (BS), Chris Ciocca (CC) and Tom Whalen (TW) were present. Michael Biviano (MB), Chad Haitsma (CH) and Sue MacCallum (SM) were absent.

Resident, former chairperson and long time member of the Committee, Susan Caron was present by invitation of the Committee.

There were no minutes to review.

The next meeting date was tentatively set for January 21, 2016.

Updates on current properties were discussed.

- Holly Road
 - VM and KO reported on their site visit with a representative from Merrill. Katie O’Donnell from Wildlands Trust also attended. Because of confusion surrounding our starting point, VM, KO and the Merrill rep. were only able to find one survey marker after much time spent searching in the woods. Katie was able to locate three other markers. TW asked about what was used for monumentation. KO said there should be cedar posts with Marshfield Conservation markers attached, but they could not find any, only a stake with a pink ribbon. TW asked for a review of the contract to be sure that what was set forth in the contract was used. KO will check and make arrangements for another site visit. TW inquired again about the parking area and the possibility of an outside contractor doing the work. Discussion continued and, because of the lack of money and manpower to create and maintain trails, it was suggested

that we look to prioritize parcels for trail work. VM suggested that conservation parcels with connectivity to other parcels be considered first for trail work and accessibility. Jay will be consulted for help with that.

- Pratt
 - KO reported that Rocco, Attorney Galvin and Pat Brennan would be attending the AAB hearing on November 30. VM had agreed to take over as the Committee's contact for the trail improvement project and the kayak launch. VM reported that she had met with Sam Woods from North and South Rivers Watershed and Gail Hunter from the local non-profit organization, Good Will Hunters. Good Will Hunters had raised \$10,000 (gross) with their Duck Derby.
- Jomat – STM presentation
 - KO reported that Special Town Meeting had voted to support the purchase of this property. There is no news yet on the LAND grant. TW questioned if the Jomat property actually abuts Riverwalk. KO will investigate.
- Comprehensive Trails Plan Working Group
 - KO reported that the Recreational Trails Committee is looking for Open Space participation in a working group. CC noted that the Recreation Commission would be rotating their members at the working group meetings. It was decided that KO would attend the first meeting scheduled for December 2 and see if our Committee could also rotate members.
- Open Space Letter for Town Annual Report
 - KO circulated, for review and comment, a copy of the Open Space Committee letter to be included in the 2015 Annual Report. There were no suggested changes.
- OSRP Update Process
 - KO introduced Susan Caron, the former Committee chairman. Susan was instrumental in the preparation of the three previous OSRP updates. She was invited to offer her

expertise and to give the Committee some background and suggestions for how to proceed in our update (due 2017). BS and TW have also been involved in previous updates. Susan explained that some of the information will remain the same, but there is a tremendous amount of data that will need to be researched and updated. For example, lists of conservation properties, maps (complicated by new FEMA flood maps), goal assessments, public participation, a full ADA assessment that includes a transition plan for meeting our goal of full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act will be required. After discussion of the tremendous amount of work involved in the update, it was suggested that the Committee consider working with an outside consulting firm to help with the update. The Committee agreed and will move forward to seek funding.

- Friends of SR Park
 - Susan informed the Committee of her efforts to form a volunteer group and develop a management plan that adheres to the original design plan and conservation goals that were presented and approved at Town Meeting and included in the Town's application for a Land and Conservation grant. There was a discussion of ways to fund the maintenance. Susan and a small group of volunteers have already expended funds and a tremendous amount of time trying to restore the park to the original vision of a natural conservation area with native plantings that enhance and protect while providing community access to the South River. The wildflower meadow is being restored because it was improperly mowed and maintained and never allowed to mature as intended. The Committee applauded Susan's efforts and committed individually to volunteering at the park and helping to locate funding sources. Susan left the meeting.

KO made a motion at 9:30 pm to enter into executive session not to return to regular session, for real property discussion because discussion in an open session may be detrimental to the Committee's

negotiating position. BS seconded. Roll call vote: TW yes, VM yes, BS yes, CC yes and KO yes.

Submitted by Karen O'Donnell